Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00974 071018Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 070945Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1443

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0974

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, ET SUBJECT: CISCO III

REF: STATE 82759

1. VIEW REFTEL, WE FEEL OBLIGED TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT PLF POLITICAL LEADER OSMAN SALEH SABBE EXERCISES NO RPT NO INFLUENCE OVER PLF MILITARY TYPES WHO ARE HOLDING CAMPBELL AND HARRELL. THIS IS EVEN MORE CERTAIN FOLLOWING RECENT KHARTOUM MEETING AT WHICH PLF MILITARY AND POLITICAL WINGS FAILED TOTALLY TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND IN FACT WOUND UP FARTHER APART THAN EVER (KHARTOUM 896). PLF REPS WHO TOLD US MARCH 3 OF DECISION TO RELEASE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL WERE MILITARY REPS CONVEYING DECISION MADE BY MILITARY LEADERS, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING TOP MILITARY CHIEF ISAIAS AFEWORK. SABBE'S EARLIER AND SEPARATE ASSURANCES TO CONGRESSMAN REUSS, ON OTHER HAND, WERE MADE WITH NO AUTHORITY WHATEVER.

2. GIVEN SEEMINGLY IRRECONCILABLE ESTRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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TWO WINGS OF PLS AND PERSONAL ANIMOSITY BETWEEN SABBE AND

AFEWORK, WE CANNOT IMAGINE HOW USG APPROACH TO FORMER COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING TOWARD LIBERATION OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL (MUCH LESS MICHALKE). WHILE THE EFFORT MIGHT BE APPRECIATED BY CONGRESSMAN REUSS AND RELATIVES OF HOSTAGES, THE OVERRIDDING DANGER IS THAT AFEWORK, IF HE GETS WIND EVEN OF OUR ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS HOSTAGE ISSUE WITH RIVAL SABBE, COULD FURTHER DELAY RELEASE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL OUTOF PIQUE AND IN ORDER DEMONSTRATE TO US AND OTHERS WHERE POWER LIES.

- 3. IF IT IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO SEEK ADDITIONAL CONTACTS ELSEWHERE, SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN INSTEAD TO SEEKING OUT PLF MILITARY RPT MILITARY REPS, PERHAPS IN JIDDA, TO FOLLOW UP ON ASSURANCES GIVEN HERE MARCH 3.
- 4. WHATEVER DEPARTMENT DECIDES, REQUEST WE BE AUTHORIZED INFORM SUDANESE AS SOON AS CONTACT WITH PLF HAS TAKEN PLACE. BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE

Type: TE

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